



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 29 2015

OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Thomas Rhule  
1404 Watts Street  
Charleston, WV 25302

**RE: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No: EPA-HQ-2015-009127**

Dear Mr. Rhule:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated July 18, 2015, requesting "(1) All documentation of each request for information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to each [West Virginia] State Agency regarding and/or reporting of data regarding the adverse effects of horizontal hydrofracking on drinking water within the borders of West Virginia pursuant to the EPA's ongoing Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources. Your reply to this request should include, at a minimum, detailed instructions of the parameters the State Agencies should include in their surveys; (2) Each official reply from all relevant West Virginia State Agencies to the EPA's request as stated in Item #1 (above); and (3) Each unofficial reply from all relevant West Virginia State Agencies to the EPA's request as stated in Item #1 (above), including emails, faxes, and/or memorandum of telephone conversations included as backup to the EPA's logged response from West Virginia to the EPA for the purpose of documenting the Public Record."

The National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA) has been assigned the lead to respond to your FOIA request within the Office of Research and Development (ORD). Attached you will find the list of records, as well as the documents related to your request. Some emails/attachments are being withheld because of Exemption #4 [they are trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential, 5 U.S.C. SS 552(b)(4) (2006)]; Exemption #6 [personal privacy, 5 U.S.C SS 552(b)(6) (2006)]; as well as Exemption #9 [geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells, 5 U.S.C. SS 552(b)(9) (2006)].

This completes EPA's response to your request. You may appeal this response to the National Freedom of Information Officer, U.S. EPA, FOIA and Privacy Branch, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.A. (2822T), Washington, D.C. 20460 (U.S. Postal Service Only) Fax (202) 566-2147, E-mail [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov) or via FOIA online: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Only items mailed through the United States Postal Service may be delivered to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. If you are

submitting your appeal via hand delivery, courier service or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Room 6416J, Washington, D.C. 20004. Your appeal must be in writing and submitted no later than 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals received after the 30-calendar day limit. The appeal letter should include the case request number identified above. For quickest possible handling, the appeal letter and its envelope should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy E. Battaglia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Battaglia" clearly distinguishable.

Amy E. Battaglia,  
Director, Office of Program Accountability  
and Resource Management

Attachments